

REMARKS

The Office Action dated June 11, 2008 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments and the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response thereto. Claims 1-14 are pending. Claims 8-13 have been allowed. By this Amendment, Claims 1 and 8 have been amended and Claim 14 has been added. Claim 8 was amended to correct a typographical error. Support for the amendment to Claim 1 and additional Claim 14 can be found on at least page 24, lines 8-10, and in drawing Fig. 34 of the application as originally filed. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is presented.

Information Disclosure Statements

The Office Action noted that the two foreign patent documents were not enclosed with the Information Disclosure Statements filed June 12, 2006 and August 9, 2006 with the application. Applicants are attaching copies of JP '963 and JP '906 to this response.

Applicants respectfully note the Form PTO/SB/08a attached to the Information Disclosure Statement dated June 8, 2007, has five references lined through as not having been considered by the Examiner. A search of PAIR shows copies of the lined-through references in the electronic filewrapper.

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner consider all the references and provide a copy of Forms PTO/SB/08a with the Examiner's initials next to the cited references indicating the Examiner properly considered the references.

Allowed Claims

Applicants respectfully acknowledge and appreciate the indication by the Examiner in the June 11, 2008 Office Action that Claims 8-13 are allowed.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1 and 3-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP07-026910 to Kobayashi in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,081,858 to Ito et al. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobayashi in view of Ito et al. and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,553,416 to Sudoh et al. or JP2001-152173 to Matsumoto. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobayashi in view of Ito et al. and further in view of JP57-179422 to Ikeda. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobayashi in view of Ito et al. and further in view of JP63-75505 to Toyota. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections for at least the following reason(s).

Claim 1 recites a camshaft that includes, among other features, a shaft formed by cold forging with a powdery lubricant applied to an etched surface thereof. Kobayashi discloses a coldforged drive shaft (2; 12; 22; 102; 202) and a cam (3; 103; 202) mounted on said shaft. The Office Action admits Kobayashi fails to disclose a powdery lubricant applied to an etched surface of the shaft (see page 3, lines 1-2).

Applicants respectfully submit that Ito fails to cure the deficiencies of Kobayashi. Ito is directed to a method for forming a lubricant coat on a surface of a steel slug to be forged, and a forging device provided with a lubricant coat forming system (see Abstract). Ito does not teach or suggest applying a powdery lubricant to an etched surface of the shaft, as recited by Claim 1.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that Sudoh, Matsumoto, Ikeda, and Toyota, alone or by any combination, do not teach or suggest a camshaft that includes, among other features, a shaft formed by cold forging with applying a powdery lubricant to an etched surface of a shaft, as recited by Claim 1. Sudoh discloses a wire drawing process in which a wire 11 is descaled by a shot blaster 26 to remove an oxide film from the surface of the wire 11 before being coated with lubricants (see, e.g., Abstract and Col. 3, lines 1-7). The lubricants are not applied to an etched surface. Matsumoto discloses simply the process for composing a lubricant to be used in cold working a work piece. Ikeda discloses a resin made gear 18 with a metal bushing 10 attached to a shaft 11. Toyota discloses a press-fitted gear 4 where an end surface 42 of the press-fitted gear 4 abuts against an end surface 32 of a stopper 3 to prevent the gear from detaching from the shaft.

The Applicants respectfully submit that Kobayashi, Ito, Sudoh, Matsumoto, Ikeda and Toyota, alone or by any combination, do not teach or suggest a camshaft that includes, among other features, a shaft formed by cold forging with a powdery lubricant applied to an etched surface, as recited by Claim 1. As such, the Applicants respectfully submit that one of ordinary skill in the art would not find it obvious to modify Kobayashi, Ito, Sudoh, Matsumoto, Ikeda and Toyota, alone or by any combination, to arrive at the features recited by Claim 1. Accordingly, Claim 1 should be deemed allowable over Kobayashi, Ito, Sudoh, Matsumoto, Ikeda and Toyota.

Claims 2-7 depend from Claim 1. It is respectfully submitted that these dependent claims be deemed allowable for at least the same reason(s) that Claim 1 is allowable, as well as for the additional subject matter recited therein.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

New Claim 14

Claim 14 depends from Claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 14 is allowable for at least the same reason(s) Claims 1-7 are allowable, as well as for the additional subject matter recited therein.

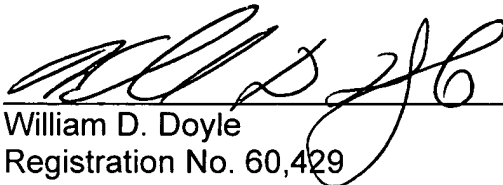
Conclusion

In view of the above, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the outstanding rejections, allowance of Claims 1-14, and the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowability.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, **referencing attorney docket number 025416-00031.**

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures: JP 60-72906 w/partial English translation
JP 52-50963 w/partial English translation